

Senate Bill 279

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Moody of the 56th, Pearson of the 51st, Carter of the 13th and Goggans of the 7th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Code Section 21-5-70 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions relative to lobbyist disclosure, so as to include certain print, radio, and television reporters and journalists within the definition of lobbyist; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Code Section 21-5-70 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions relative to lobbyist disclosure, is amended by striking paragraph (6) and inserting in lieu thereof a new paragraph (6) to read as follows:

"(6) 'Lobbyist' means:

(A) Any natural person who, for compensation, either individually or as an employee of another person, undertakes to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee thereof, or the approval or veto of legislation by the Governor;

(B) Any natural person who makes a total expenditure of more than \$250.00 in a calendar year, not including the person's own travel, food, lodging expenses, or informational material to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee thereof, or the approval or veto of legislation by the Governor;

(C) Any natural person who as an employee of the executive branch or judicial branch of state government engages in any activity covered under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph;

(D) Any natural person who, for compensation, either individually or as an employee of another person, undertakes to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (15) of Code Section 21-5-3, or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or veto of any such ordinance or resolution;

(E) Any natural person who makes a total expenditure of more than \$250.00 in a calendar year, not including the person's own travel, food, lodging expenses, or informational material to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (15) of Code Section 21-5-3, or any committee of such public officers or the approval or veto of any such ordinance or resolution; ~~or~~

(F) Any natural person who as an employee of the executive branch or judicial branch of local government engages in any activity covered under subparagraph (D) of this paragraph; or

(G) Any natural person who covers or reports on legislation or legislative sessions of the General Assembly on behalf of any newspaper, radio or television station, wire service, news service, or other media outlet."

## SECTION 2.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

## SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.